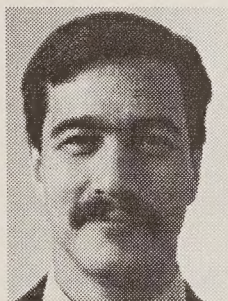


## Rabbi's Column

### Celebrating and Saying Goodbye

Many of you have no doubt heard about the vote by the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the national association of Reform rabbis, to endorse the civil recognition of gay and lesbian marriages. In so doing, we became only the second national religious organization so far to have taken a stand in favor of civil recognition of gay and lesbian marriages. While the vote was not without dis-



Rabbi Yoel Kahn

sent, the overwhelming sentiment was strongly in favor of the resolution. The sense of the room, as I listened to my colleagues, was "this is the right thing to do and we are going to do it." I was very proud of my colleagues and the Reform movement on that day.

There were no prepared speeches, but I did go up to the microphone and give a very short off the cuff talk about why this issue is important to me; I illustrated my remarks by holding up photos of Dan and our son, Adam. Although I hadn't planned it ahead, this turned out to be a "media moment" which was captured in a photo in the New York Times and widely reported in other papers and on TV. Some people got the impression that I was responsible for bringing this resolution to our Conference for a vote; in fact, it was our many friends and allies throughout the Reform movement and the Reform rabbinate who organized, planned and cajoled in order to make sure this resolution came up for a vote. In light of the backlash in state legislatures against the possibility that states may be asked to recognize gay and lesbian marriages, the timing of this resolution was very valuable.

The Central Conference does not have an official stand on rabbinic officiation at gay and lesbian unions. I have little doubt that eventually the Conference

will create an "official" liturgy for rabbis who wish to use it. Over and over at this Conference I heard rabbis saying, "I haven't been asked yet but certainly would if I were..." The Guide to Officiation which I wrote for other rabbis continues to be very popular and I am confident that the Reform movement will continue to lead the Jewish world in this sphere.

\* \* \*

In a famous understatement, the Talmud says: "Kol hatchalot kashot—All beginnings are difficult." Well, leave-takings aren't such a piece of cake either! As I wind down my work as the rabbi of this wonderful congregation, I have had some opportunity to clarify what we have done and what we have yet to do. While the tasks ahead are many, I am very proud of what we have done together over the last eleven years. We have done wonderful things, whether exploring personal spirituality or celebrating a life-cycle, building a communal life of worship, study and activism, or organizing and teaching on the national Jewish scene. From lay leadership at services to the first open trip by a gay and lesbian outreach congregation to Israel to the recent CCAR vote, we have been leaders and exemplars for our community. I am very grateful to David Stein and to the Va'ad for organizing our first annual (I hope!) Study Shabbaton on May 17 and 18. Details are elsewhere in this issue of the Forward; I am looking forward to a very memorable weekend and a wonderful culmination to my years as rabbi of the synagogue. At Shabbat services at the Shabbaton, I will try to sum up my understanding of where we have been and where I think we are going as a community.

I will never forget the many, many ways and times that so many of you have expressed your faith in my rabbinate and your support of me personally. I cannot count the cards and notes that I have received from you, whether in ap-

*Continued on page 7*

### Celebrate Shavuot

CSZ will celebrate Shavuot Thursday, May 23 with a dairy potluck, a service and a Tikkun, or study session. Join us on this festive holiday that commemorates the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai.

The evening will begin at 6:30 pm with a potluck in the Oneg Room. Dairy foods are traditional, and blintzes are especially welcome, but you can bring any dairy or vegetarian dish to share. CSZ will provide beverages, plates and utensils. The service, led by Dev Felder-Noily and Rabbi Kahn, will begin at 7:30 pm, and our Tikkun (study session) will begin at 9 pm and continue until late.

### Supervisors Commend CSZ and Rabbi Kahn

The following resolution was adopted on April 8 by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

Resolution commending the Central Conference of American Rabbis on its passage of a resolution in support of civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples and in opposition to governmental efforts to bar such unions and commending Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and its Rabbi Yoel H. Kahn, on their role in securing the passage of this resolution.

Save the Date  
Sunday, May 19  
Congregational  
Annual Meeting



## Chol Hamoed Pesach 5756

A Sunday in April in San Francisco... which means, we are ablaze with spring flowers, and the pollen count, just as the Omer count, increases each day. Whether it's the weather, the count or something else in the air, this kind of April day always pricks my imagination to relate the events of our congregation with our month of spring festivals. Allow me here to wallow in the musings of a fine spring day.

In May, comes Lag B'Omer: the 33rd day of the counting of the omer, and Shavuot, called the festival of weeks, among other things. These festival markers have a special meaning for us this year, but they also relate to our early pre-Israelite origins and celebrations.

The first marker is the Omer, a measure of barley. Early pre-Israelite Omer festivals (April/May, early Nisan) were common grain sacrifice celebrations. They involved priestly sacrifice activities as described in the first chapters of Leviticus. Later, a 40-day period of the Omer Festival was related to the wanderings of the Israelites from the day of Exodus to their arrival at Mount Sinai. There were various prohibitions in place during the Omer festivals, and not surprisingly, they involved prohibitions against sex. On Lag B'Omer, however, the prohibition is lifted and sexual relations are allowed and thus marriage ceremonies can be held. In another context for Lag B'Omer celebrations, not connected to grain measurement or sex, some celebrate the blessed memory of Rabbi Simeon bar Yochai, the second-century sage of the Mishnah and ascribed author of the Zohar. From Meron to Safed there is singing and dancing and discussions of his teachings.

The second marker is Shavuot, the holiday that melds pre-Israelite celebrations of the first fruits of harvest and a required pilgrimage trek to the temple, along with the giving of the law at Mount Sinai, when the Israelites gathered and began observing and discussing laws of social and religious behavior. Shavuot at Mt. Sinai was a sort of first constitutional convention.



David Stein

What's the connection here? Probably not accidentally, between these two festival markers we have placed two festival events: a weekend honoring Rabbi Kahn and our Congregational Meeting. We have a special Lag B'Omer and Shavuot.

The theme of the weekend Shabbaton for Yoel Kahn is *Renewing the Old and Sanctifying the New: Reclaiming and Re-imagining Jewish Religious Life and Community*. "Re-imagining" is quite an appropriate word for spring: it is a challenge too, a commandment to make that image anew. Among the Shabbat study sessions is one entitled *Imagining God: a Cubist Perspective* to be led by Rabbi Flam. There is another on the power and influence of Jewish tradition on personal expressions in the arts, this one led by members of our congregation. Come celebrate the power of our creative spirit at Sha'ar Zahav! Surely the Kabbalists would dance with us at our celebration of Rabbi Kahn's years with us.

And then there is the Congregational Meeting. Sobering, perhaps. Viewed as part of our celebration of the weekend it is as the Shavuot celebration of old at Mount Sinai, re-enacted for the 4000th time. And then we close the festival with a l'chaim to Yoel after the meeting.

Isn't it wonderful how whatever we do in our congregation, whatever event or discussion we have, it can be a source of celebration, growth and inspiration. I hope you had a wonderful day as I did during Chol Hamoed Pesach.

## HIV+ Support Group

CSZ has ongoing support services for members living with HIV/AIDS and their families and partners. Mark your calendars:

**Saturday, May 11 at 3 pm:** Support Group at CSZ, followed by a catered dinner at 5:30 pm.

**Saturday, June 8 from 3-5 pm:** Support Group at CSZ. (The date listed in the April *Forward* was incorrect.)

You no longer need to RSVP for Support Group Meetings. If you would like to RSVP for the May dinner, have any questions, or would like to put your name on our confidential mailing list, please call Amy Clark or Rabbi Kahn at the office (861-6932). Join us!

*The Jewish Gaily Forward* is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July-August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, 861-6932. E-mail: ShaarZahav@aol.com. To request permission to reprint material, call Robin Leonard (386-7876).

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, nonmembers will receive a *Forward* subscription.

### Members of the Newsletter Committee

*Chairs:* by committee

*Editorial Coordinator:* Batya Kalis (821-3855)

*Layout Coordinator:* Rose Katz

*Editing/Proofreading/Layout:* Alison Cohen, Joe Hample, Stephan Howard, Richard Inlander, Robin Leonard, Martha Moon, Ron Moskowitz, Allyn Stern, Sam Thal

*Photography:* Michael Bettinger

*Advertising:* Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@aol.com)

*Distribution:* Joe Hample, coordinator; Salem Buchholz, Alison Cohen, Virginia Donohue, Leora Eisenberg, Tess Johnson, Stan Kern, Mark Klaiman, Drew Parker, Mike Siani, Sam Thal, Eli Weinstein

*Typesetting:* David Lester, Mouse Type Inc.

*Printing:* Genesis Printing & Graphics

**Display Ads** are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

**Classified Ads** are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked: attention *Forward* advertising. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

May 1996/Volume 19, Issue 9

## Todah Rabah

The Program Coordinator would like to thank Fran Frohlich for organizing the Pre-school Seder art project, Jim Edlin and Eve Meyer for hosting both Purim and Pesach Pre-school events at their home, and Dev Felder Noily for donating theatre tickets as a prize on Purim.



## CSZ Seder

—Ron Moskowitz, *Forward* food critic  
We were starving as we headed out Franklin Street and the afternoon couldn't have been finer for what we knew would be a lot of food. As we crossed Bay Street, leaving the crowded, noisy city behind us, and entered the park-like setting of the Fort Mason Officers' Club, a festive yet relaxed feeling overcame us and we unwound almost immediately.

What a delightful spot it was! Out the huge windows, gnarled Manzanitas and huge oaks dotted the foreground with San Francisco Bay rounding out the picture. Valances of blue-green silk (the color of the Bay) were draped formally above each window. They, along with the crisp, starched white tablecloths and napkins and uniformed servers, lent an elegance to the room as the 200 guests seated themselves at the long tables.

As someone used to suffering community seders in basements and mediocre restaurants, I was struck by the ambiance. Superior china and graceful, serviceable stemware and flatware were set carefully at each table, along with carefully wrapped pots of azaleas. Shirley Liberman, who for years has coordinated the event, made all of the seder plates with partner Margaret Livingston's help; and Judith Cohen helped arrange the table flowers donated by Walter Leiss. Shirley had worked her magic once again. Well, I thought, this sure is a gorgeous place that Mike Rankin has arranged for us to use.

The traditional Passover food, pre-

pared by Chefs Anthony Chan and Francisco Juan Flores, was the best food I have ever eaten at a public seder. And it was close to the best seder food I've eaten anywhere.

It was 7:20 pm when I looked at my watch for the first time. By then, we had all been noshing on the matzo and charoset and bitter herbs that were on the table when we sat down, and the dishes of ceremonial food looked as if they had been victims of locusts, one of the ten plagues.

Soon our fabulous new synagogue-published haggadahs told us dinner is served. Right on cue, the men and women serving brought the first course, a quite adequate portion of tender gefilte fish decorated with seasonal greens and accented with the hottest horseradish I have eaten since I grated my own last year in a Cuisinart.

Cups of hot, peppery chicken soup surrounded matzo balls that were perfectly made and cooked; they were neither too fluffy nor too leaden. And the rich, zesty broth washed away the burning horseradish remains and prepared our palates for the main course.

And what a main course! Oversized dinner plates contained halves of crisp, juicy, rosemary-studded, perfectly-roasted chicken. There were chunks of oven-roasted potatoes the way my mother made them: cooked in the drippings, each chunk became delightfully crusty outside, yet stayed mealy inside. With them came several spears of fresh

*Continued on page 5*

## From the Rabbi Search Committee

—Robin Leonard & Allan Gold, co-chairs  
First, we would like to thank all members of the congregation who returned the questionnaire, sent us thoughts by letter, attended one of the discussion groups or have recently told us how much you appreciate the work we are doing. Your input and support are very important to us.

Based on the input we received from all of you, we will finalize the lists of Rabbinical Needs and Functions and Rabbinical Traits, and prioritize each list. We will then seek Va'ad approval for the priorities.

Since we sent you the package of material in late March, we have received resumés from several candidates. We have written to each rabbi, acknowledging receipt of the resumé and asking for a little more information. Once we receive the additional information, we plan to conduct phone interviews with certain candidates later in May. After that, we will check references and hope to bring some rabbis out here this summer for a face-to-face interview.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact either committee co-chair if you have questions or concerns. Drop us a line at the synagogue or send us some e-mail (robinl@nolo.com or agold8946@aol.com).



*I have enjoyed working  
with CSZ members in  
successfully buying and  
selling real estate.*

*Call me for  
an appointment:*

**DEBORAH UDIN**

**863-7500 ext. 117**

### WANDERING JEW with scissors

Professional haircutter  
will come to your  
home – at your  
convenience.

For the chosen  
ones only  
**\$20**

**ALIZA AMAR**  
haircutting  
431-6536



## Oneg Schedule

As described in the October 1995 *Forward*, every CSZ member who lives in the immediate Bay Area has been assigned to volunteer at **oneg** each year. The schedule for the next two months is below. (If you have asked the synagogue not to print your name in the newsletter, your name will not appear on the schedule; however, you are still assigned for the week where your name falls alphabetically.) You'll also be called or sent a postcard reminding you that your week is coming up. Volunteering means:

- set up the oneg (come at 7:30 and put up hot water, pour juice/wine, set out food)
- clean up the oneg (put away food/drinks, collect plates, wash dishes, wipe off tables)

### May 3

A. Ingersoll & D. Stein  
R. Inlander & B. Schalit  
D. Israels  
A. Jackson  
D. Jacobs-Levine & J. Levine  
R. Jacobson  
T. Johnson

### May 10

N. Kaiser & N. Klimist  
B. Kalis & M. Trentman  
G. Kassner & S. Spiro  
N. Kates  
E. Katz  
L. Katz  
L. Katz  
Robert Katz

### May 17

Rose Katz  
M. Kay  
I. Keller  
S. Kern  
A. Kimerling & R. Rotolo  
S. King  
J. Klain  
S. Koshover

### May 24

I. Kuluk  
D. Lahn & M. Schroeder  
E. Landsberg  
S. Larson  
J. Lefkowitz & S. Shuster  
W. Leiss  
R. Leonard  
M. Levin

### May 31

M. Levine  
S. Levine & L. Schickler

• bring food (cookies, cake, kugel, cut vegetables, fruit or whatever you want, as long as it's vegetarian).

Please call the oneg chair, Allan Gianini (255-8117), a week in advance to confirm what you want to do. We'll provide instructions for people setting up and cleaning up.

Participation each week is on a first-come, first-served basis, with the primary goal being getting enough people to set up and clean up. If you have circumstances which make it impossible for you to ever help with an oneg, please let Allan know.

If you have volunteered at an oneg since August 4, 1995, you have fulfilled your 1995-96 oneg obligation and can ignore your name when it appears.

E. Levy & J. Nichols  
R. Lezell  
S. Liberman & M. Livingston  
B. Lieberman

### June 7

J. Lilly  
M. Lipschutz  
E. Litman  
G. Llamado & A. Slepian  
E. Lopatin  
L. Lowe  
S. Lowe  
S. Lowinger

### June 14

S. Lubeck  
M. Lubitz  
G. Lucas & T. Rothgiesser  
A. Ludden  
M. Luskin  
C. Lyons  
H. Mach  
M. Mackler  
J. Macks

### June 21

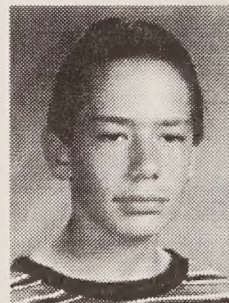
E. Magenheim  
R. Mailman  
C. Mann  
J. Marah  
P. Margolis  
T. Mauro & P. Miller  
C. Mayerson

### June 28

J. Medina  
R. Mehler  
J. & S. Melrod  
N. Meyer & M. O'Keeffe  
E. Meyers  
S. Meyers  
R. Meyerson

## Aaron Garay Buchbinder Bar Mitzvah

On Saturday, May 11, Aaron Garay Buchbinder will be called to the Torah on the occasion of his bar mitzvah. Aaron is a 7th grader at Bridgemont School in San Francisco, where his favorite subjects are math (he says it's "fun to do") and physical education (he says he needs to run around during P.E. or else he'd do it during class and get in trouble for causing a disruption). Aaron loves to play soccer and video games — his current favorite video game is Donkey Kong II. His bar mitzvah means he has earned greater responsibilities and is taking another step toward manhood. Aaron wants to especially thank his tutor Howard Goldberg (Aaron says he admires Howard's patience) and Daniel Chesir. The congregation extends a mazel tov to Aaron, his mothers Diana Buchbinder and Joyce Garay, and his sister Emma.



Aaron Buchbinder

## Naches

A special naches and thank you to **Martha Moon and Judy Heiman**, who leave this summer for Harare, Zimbabwe to work on an AIDS research project until August 1997. Martha and Judy were members of the *Forward* staff for many years. Judy had to resign a few years back when her work and school life took up too much of her time to continue with us, but Martha has stayed on. Each month, Martha diligently does the final proofread of the *Forward* in isolation from the rest of the committee. We thank her for her outstanding contributions as an unsung heroine of the newsletter committee and wish her and Judy the best of luck in Zimbabwe. We will miss them and look forward to their return!



## Contributions

### AIDS Fund

**Harry and Renee Longstreet**, in memory of Leland Vogel.

**Mike Rankin**, in memory of Sergeant Perry Watkins.

### Chesir-Stein Music Fund

**Rose Katz**, in honor of Jonathan Comisar's acceptance to the School of Sacred Music.

### Children's Education Fund

**Rose Katz**, in honor of the bat mitzvah of Danielle Rose Billinkoff.

### Education Fund

**Richard Sinkoff**, in loving memory of Roslyn Sinkoff.

### Fund for the House in Order Manual

**Allen Berenstein**, in memory of Allen Harris.

**Anne M. Hughes**, in memory of Allen Harris.

**Allen Berenstein**, on the occasion of David Stein and Alex Ingersoll's finally being recognized as domestic partners.

### General Fund

**Batya Billinkoff**, in honor of Danielle Billinkoff's becoming *bat mitzvah*.

**Allan Berenstein**, to commemorate the *yahrzeit* of Max Radetsky.

**Lawney Baldwin**, in honor of Paul Cohen and Robin Leonard for their assistance with Tony Vernola's entrance into the Covenant.

**Seth Charney**, in memory of Nettie Charney and Morris Charney.

**Susan Unger and Pam Erwin**, in memory of Harvey Liberman.

**Mike Siani**

**Lucy Fine and Shuli Goodman**, in memory of Margie Fine and Claire Goodman.

**Nancy Meyer and Marilyn O'Keeffe**, in honor of Marilyn's entrance into the covenant and with thanks to Rabbi Kahn.

**Nancy Meyer and Marilyn O'Keeffe**, in honor of, and with thanks to Paul Cohen.

**Steven Horowitz**, in memory of Michael Lipson.

**John Atteridg**, in memory of Katie Atteridg.

**Allan Berenstein**, in honor of Stephanie

Hannaford's new job and in honor of Stephanie Hannaford and Chris Witzel's new home.

**Rose Katz**, in memory of Marvin J. Katz.

**Nancy Feinstein and Glenn Shor**, in honor of Thea Mauro.

**Mike Rankin**, in celebration of the Central Committee of American Rabbi's vote in support of gay/lesbian marriages.

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Allan Berenstein**, in appreciation of Rabbi Kahn's kindness.

**Robert and Lizbeth Hector**, in honor of Paul Cohen.

**Ed Lopatin**, in memory of Aaron Lopatin.

**Michele Sullivan Williamson and Andrew Williamson**, in honor of Rabbi Kahn and CSZ.

**Larry Wexler**, in appreciation of Rabbi Kahn and CSZ.

### Allen Kahn Memorial Fund

**Eleanor Mitchell**, in memory of Dr. Allen Kahn.

## New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new member this month. A warm welcome to the latest person to join our family:

### Lezlie Frishman

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

**CULLUM & SENA**

Divorce, Custody & Support  
Relationship Agreements  
Wills & Living Trusts  
Small Business  
Auto Accidents  
Discrimination

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

"The Cornerstone of Our Practice"

Free Initial Consultation

45 POLK STREET SECOND FLOOR SF CA 94102  
PHONE 415 . 863 . 5300 FAX 415 . 863 . 8596

## Seder

*Continued from page 3*

asparagus (surprisingly *al dente*), and a pile of roasted baby carrots and onions. Vegetarian diners had similar compliments for their no-fowl soup and the spinach frittata that was substituted for the chicken.

We were so full that everyone at our table was pledging to forgo dessert. But then it came: a light, excellent, cooling sherbet of mixed flavors that was so delicious many of us left not a bite.

A word or two about the wine. As someone who has long believed that the Manishevitz Company should get out of the wine business, I was quite pleasantly surprised how well its blackberry wine went with the Passover dinner. Unlike the company's cloying, syrupy Concord grape wine, the slightly-sweet blackberry was quite palatable.

Considering that those who came to eat paid only \$23 to \$28 (nonmembers) for the entire four-course meal including view, ambiance, wine and excellent service, Sha'ar Zahav's annual seder may be the best bargain banquet in town now that most of the Basque places in North Beach have gone out of business.

"I first suggested moving the seder to the club back in '82 and '83 when I was president," Mike Rankin explained. "But they said, 'No way, not on a military base.' Then, four years ago, I suggested it again and the leadership said, 'Okay, as long as they know that we're a gay and lesbian synagogue.'"

"When I told that to the club, they said the only thing they cared about was whether we could pay the bill."

## Classifieds

**ALL THINGS MACINTOSH:** Professionalize/computerize your business. Get online now. Quick-en • Work • Excel • Hard disk tune-up. Roslyn Fuerman 510-526-1209.

**PROVINCETOWN, CAPE COD, JUNE 21-29.** Share a fabulous water view apartment. Beach access. Own room for 1 or 2, kitchen. Rob 861-2350.

## Members' Yahrzeits

9	Jack Jacobs
13	David Delroy
14	Thomas Yazman
17	Nanci Stern
19	Alan Altman
21	James Perkins



## Ma'ayan: Wellspring of Renewal

The Hebrew word, Ma'ayan, means source, or wellspring. Sha'ar Zahav chose this name for its annual fundraising campaign because these monies are designated as a source of support for the growing range of programming our congregation carries out. As our congregational year draws to a close, it seems worthwhile to reflect on our accomplishments, the programming that has blossomed and flourished with support from this wellspring over the past year.

Ma'ayan Campaign set out to enhance our congregational programming in six areas, and, indeed, Ma'ayan has enriched us in all these ways and more:

- Jewish Education for Adults and Families
- B'nai Mitzvah Activities for All Ages
- Social Programs with a Jewish Flavor
- Documenting our History
- Publishing Our Unique Liturgy
- Jewish-based Support for People Living with Illness

The Ma'ayan wellspring enabled the production of CSZ's "18/10 Anniversary Video," which premiered at last year's anniversary celebration. The video has been shown at a variety of other CSZ events, as well as at other Reform congregations and PFLAG meetings, and remains available for purchase in the gift shop! This production also gave rise to a set of video archives documenting our history. Ma'ayan funds supported the publication of "Let Us Begin," the beautiful Haggadah we used to celebrate Pesach this year, and also helped pay for the printing of "A House in Order," our new Sha'ar Zahav guide for making life's final preparations. Ma'ayan helped support the recent family retreat at Camp Swig, a joyous weekend of prayer, song, contemplation, and fun. The campaign's funds also supported the Traveling Jewish Theatre's recent performance at CSZ.

Thanks to all of our support, both in dollars and volunteer effort, Ma'ayan has tremendously enriched our congregational life. And the effort continues; this year's Ma'ayan campaign has already reached 80% of our goal of \$18,000. If you have not yet contributed to the 1995-96 Ma'ayan Campaign and would like to help, please contact the CSZ office.

## Pledges and Gifts to Ma'ayan 96

The following members and friends have supported Ma'ayan 96 as of April 7. To date, we have raised \$14,235 towards our goal of \$18,000!

### *Lev Zahav (Heart of Gold)* (\$1,000+)

Allan Berenstein  
Walter Leiss

### *Zahav (Gold) (\$500-\$999)*

Tiela Chalmers  
David Gellman  
Joe Hample  
Alex Ingersoll and David Stein  
Robin Leonard  
Susan Unger  
Susan Tubbesing  
Mark Vogel and Bill Denebeim

### *Kesef (Silver) (\$250-\$499)*

Claudia Bernard and Howard Herman  
Michael Chertok  
Daniel Chesir  
Ellie Cohen and Greta Miskatel  
Jonathan Funk  
Robert Gutterman and Paul Cohen  
Ed Lopatin  
Mike Zimmerman

### *Arad (Bronze) (\$100-\$249)*

Mark Bowers  
Judith Cohen  
Rick Crane  
Susan Gelmis  
Liz Goodman and Ellen Lewin  
Stephen and Trudi Hauptman  
Arnie Jackson  
Batya Kalis  
Sherie Koshover  
Ron Lezell  
Eve Meyer and Jim Edlin  
Jose Luis Moscovich  
Marilyn O'Keeffe and Nancy Meyer  
Claire Rappoport  
Nathan Robinson  
Andrew Schwartz  
Kate Sharp and Alita Rosenfeld  
Martin Sinkoff and David Stocks  
Daphne Stuart  
Robert Tat  
Sam Thal  
Dana Vinicoff  
Sam Walters

### *Ma'ayanot (All Other Gifts)*

Leonard Brill  
Mary Jane Eisenberg  
Arlene Elster  
Jeff Friedman  
Barak Gale  
Allan Giannini  
Ruby Gold  
Tova Green  
Emily Harrison  
Stephan Howard  
Elizabeth Katz  
Rose Katz  
Michael Kay  
Elizabeth Landsberg and Gordon Dean  
Shirley Liberman and Margaret Livingston  
Jan Medina  
Ron and Ruth Miguel  
Julie Moed and Shelley Eisenman  
Ronald D. Moskowitz  
Charles H. Norton  
Douglas Okun  
Lolma Olson and Beth Reed  
Sandy O'Neill  
Perry Paker  
Drew Parker  
Jerry Polansky and Mark Schoenberg  
Ora Prochovnick and Rena Frantz  
Dona Rabinowitz  
Nina Raff and Annie Winters  
Ruth Rainero  
Claudio Resnick  
Douglas Robson  
Margaret Rossoff  
Judy Schwartz and Carolyn Pines  
Neil Sechan  
Jeffrey Sherman  
Robert Stern  
Eli Weinstein  
Randy Weiss  
Marcy Whitebook

## Naches

To **Danielle Billinkoff**, on becoming bat mitzvah.

To **Eloise Magenheimer**, on her new position with the San Francisco Neighborhood Safety Project.

To **Ora Prochovnick and Rena Frantz**, on the celebration of their wedding.

To **David Stein and Alex Ingersoll**, on the public acknowledgment of their relationship at the San Francisco group ceremony presided over by Mayor Willie Brown and CSZ and California Assembly member Carole Migden.





## Anniversaries

- 15 Lisa Feldstein & Max Drukman
- 15 Carrie Gray Costello & Pekka Hall
- 16 Ann Bauman & Kelly Thiemann
- 22 Phyllis Mintzer & George Mintzer
- 29 Mark Freeman & Ken White
- 31 Ilana Bernstein & Diane Desmond



## Condolences

We extend our condolences to:

**Jeffrey Lilly**, on the death of his friend, Thom Bean.

**Ed Lopatin**, on the death of his friend, Paul Anderson.

**Johanna Ceapach Choinn** and **Bon Brown**, on the death of their friend, Allan Cline.

The memory of the righteous is for a blessing.

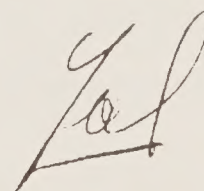
## Rabbi

*Continued from page 1*

preciation for my "being there" for you in a time of need or in solidarity with me through my own joys and sorrows. I am also appreciative of the notes and cards you sent me after I announced my decision to step down as the rabbi. If you have ever visited my office, you have seen how I keep the cards you have sent me on my bookshelves above my desk; your faithfulness and caring have been constant sources of strength. I also will never forget the members of our congregation who have died; each of their lives touched my own and I shall always cherish their memory.

"Kol hatchalot kashot" the Talmud says. Soon, the congregation will have a new rabbi. It will be hard to keep from thinking (or saying) "that's not how Yoel would do it." That's true—our congregation's next rabbi will bring in new ideas, new ways of doing things, new perspectives that I never even imagined. How exciting! The task of being the rabbi of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a wonderful, blessing-filled, exhilarating challenge. I am confident that you will afford my successor the same opportunities to teach, to lead and to fulfill her/his rabbinate that you have offered me. Together, rabbi and congregation will then thrive as we have been blessed to thrive.

With love and affection,



## Onegs

These generous people sponsored onegs during the month of March:

- 1 **Paul Cohen**, in memory of Joseph M. Cohen.
- 15 **Jerry Rosenstein**, in memory of his family.
- 29 **Pam Miller, Dvora Honigstein, and Jan Medina**, in honor of Theodora Mauro's entrance into the covenant.
- 29 **Nancy Meyer and Marilyn O'Keeffe**, in honor of Marilyn's entrance into the covenant.



### ORIT YANAI

interior  
f
exterior  
a
painting  
u
x

studio 415 822 1057
home 415 826 4370

Contracts  
Leases  
Wills  
Probate  
Real Estate  
Business Law  
Litigation

Legal  
Help

**Goldstein, Gellman, Melbostad & Gibson**

**A T T O R N E Y S   A T   L A W**

100 Van Ness  
21st Floor  
San Francisco  
California  
94102



Call David Gellman  
415-621-5600





## Birthdays

1	Bruce Barishman
1	Michael Pierce
2	Rena Frantz
3	Marion Trentman
4	Eileen Dunn
4	Jeffrey Rubin
5	Anne Ludden-Moses
5	Colette Patt
6	Aaron Buchbinder
6	Joan Becker
6	Henry Carrey
7	Leah Fraimow-Wong
7	Tova Rendlich
7	Dianne Hawk
8	Paul Nemrow
8	Shelley Samuels
8	Stephanie Hannaford
9	Margarita Bekker
9	Ruth Newstat Dreisbach
10	Lawney Baldwin
10	Gabriele Kassner
12	Kailin Chalmers Koch
13	Douglas Okun
14	Claire Rappoport
15	Melissa Grossman
15	Richard Rath
15	Arnie Jackson
16	Edward Tanovitz
17	Elaya Adelberg
17	Antoinette Reed
17	David Schnur
18	Yona Barth-Rogers
18	Jane Boskoff Graeven
18	David Stein
19	Dena Rendlich
19	Katharine Woodruff
20	Lillian Schaechner
20	Richard Wilson
21	Gerald B. Rosenstein
21	Gabriel Vega
21	Lolma Olson
22	Marilyn Brown
22	Leora Eisenberg
22	Janis Medina
23	Nancy Feinstein
23	Barbara Cymrot
24	Jody Reiss
26	Harper Reed-Ehrlich
26	Robert Katz
26	Sylvia Weisenberg
27	Nancy Epstein
28	Sherie Koshover
29	David Sigal
29	Trudi Hauptman
30	Shelley Eisenman
30	Eloise Magenheimer



## Synagogue Information

### Rabbi Yoel Kahn

#### Officers:

*President*, David Stein (863-4769 or david.stein@internetmci.com)  
*Administrative Vice President*,  
 Diana Buchbinder  
*Program Vice President*, Judith Cohen  
*Treasurer*, Michael Zimmerman  
*Recorder*, Dona Rabinowitz

### Va'ad (Board) Members:

Michael Chertok  
 Jonathan Comisar  
 Lyssa Friedman  
 David Gellman  
 Lisa Katz  
 Ed Lopatin  
 Carolyn Pines  
 Lane Schickler  
 Susan Tubbesing

#### CSZ Staff:

*Office Manager*, Lea Salem  
*Kadimah Principal*, Phyllis Mintzer  
*Rabbi Kahn's Asst.*, Amy Clark  
*Program Coord.*, Dana Katz

#### Committee Chairs:

*Archives*, open  
*ARZA contact*, Ron Lezell  
*Bequests and Donations*, Richard Inlander  
*Bikkur Cholim*, David Shaber  
*Brotherhood*, Stephan Howard  
*Building*, Mark Klaiman  
*Bylaws*, Edward Pollock  
*Cemetery*, Richard Inlander  
*Cookbook Project*, Robin Leonard and Rose Katz  
*Dues*, Susan Gelmis and Sara Haber  
*Education*, Claire Rappoport  
*Endowment Fund*, Richard Inlander  
*Environmental Action*, Barak Gale and Brian Besser

*Finance*, Michael Zimmerman  
*Fine Arts*, Alice Prussin  
*Fundraising*, open  
*Gift Shop*, Jeff Rubin  
*Infant-Toddler Chavurah*, open  
*Leadership Development*, Irene Ogus  
*Long-Range Planning*, Allan Gold  
*Membership*, Sara Haber and Larry Wexler  
*Newsletter*, by committee  
*Oneg*, Allan Giannini  
*Past Presidents Council*, Merry Luskin  
*Personnel*, Diana Buchbinder  
*Pre-school Chavurah*, Nancy Meyer  
*Public Relations*, Sharyn Saslatsky  
*Religious School*, Ron Lezell and Martha Rosett  
*Ritual*, Ora Prochovnick  
*Social Action*, Eloise Magenheimer  
*Volunteer Coordinator*, Nathan Robinson  
*Women's Chavurah*, open

*Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.*

**Office Hours:** Monday–Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. Please call the synagogue office at 861-6932.

**Emergency Number:** In an emergency, the congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 861-6938.

**Bikkur Cholim:** If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have the rabbi or a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

**Member** of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Robin Leonard, liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Lane Schickler, liaison).

**Services** are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am—check calendar for each month. Morning Minyan meets Mondays at 8:30 am.

**Gift Shop Hours:** Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm.

**Library Hours:** Open during office hours, and 30 minutes before and after Friday night services.

**Congregation Sha'ar Zahav** (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.



**1** Wednesday  
12 Iyyar

**2** Thursday  
13 Iyyar

**3** Friday  
14 Iyyar

- 7 pm, Early Kabbalat Shabbat
- 7:45 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat service: Barak Gale and Tova Green

**4** Saturday  
15 Iyyar

- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 10 am, Nitzanim and Chalutzim Lag B'Omer Celebration at home of Ora Prochovnick and Rena Frantz

**5** Sunday  
16 Iyyar

**6** Monday  
17 Iyyar

- 8:30 am, Morning Minyan
- 6 pm, Healing service

**7** Tuesday  
18 Iyyar  
Lag B'Omer

**8** Wednesday  
19 Iyyar

**9** Thursday  
20 Iyyar  
• 6:30 pm, Dues Committee

**10** Friday  
21 Iyyar

- Oneg shabbat in honor of candidates
- 7:30 pm, Niggun Service
- 7:51 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat service: Rabbi Kahn and Daniel Chesir

**11** Saturday  
22 Iyyar

- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 10 am, Shabbat service, Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Buchbinder, Ora and Rena's Aufruf
- 3 pm, HIV+ Support Group followed by dinner in the library

**12** Sunday  
23 Iyyar

**13** Monday  
24 Iyyar

- 8:30 am, Morning Minyan
- 6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting

**14** Tuesday  
25 Iyyar

**15** Wednesday  
26 Iyyar

- 7 pm, Newsletter editing

**16** Thursday  
27 Iyyar

- 6:30 pm, Bikkur Cholim meeting

**17** Friday  
28 Iyyar

- 7:57 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat service at Congregation Sherith Israel: Rabbi Leslie Bergson, Rabbi Kahn, Jonathan Funk and Jonathan Comisar

**18** Saturday  
29 Iyyar

- 9:30 am, Shabbat morning service at Sherith Israel
- 12 noon, Lunch break
- 12:45 pm, Workshop I
- 1:45 pm, Workshop II
- 2:45 pm, Break
- 3 pm, Closing session

**19** Sunday  
1 Sivan

- 11:30 am, Kadimah Final Session picnic in Douglass Park: Teacher Tutor Recognition Day
- 3 pm, Congregational meeting
- 5 pm, L'chaim to Rabbi Kahn (reception at CSZ)

**20** Monday  
2 Sivan

- 8:30 am, Morning Minyan
- 6 pm, Healing service
- 7 pm, Newsletter layout

**21** Tuesday  
3 Sivan

- 7 pm, Membership Committee meeting

**22** Wednesday  
4 Sivan

**23** Thursday  
5 Sivan

- Erev Shavuot
- 6:30 pm, Dairy potluck dinner
- 7:30 pm, Service led by Rabbi Kahn and Devra Felder-Noily
- 8:02 pm, Candle lighting for Shavuot
- 9 pm, Study sessions (tikkun)

**24** Friday  
6 Sivan

- Shavuot
- Office Closed
- 8:03 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat service: Tiela Chalmers and Ora Prochovnick

**25** Saturday  
7 Sivan

**26** Sunday  
8 Sivan

- 10:30 am, Kaiser brunch

**27** Monday  
9 Sivan

- 8:30 am, Morning Minyan

**28** Tuesday  
10 Sivan

**29** Wednesday  
11 Sivan

**30** Thursday  
12 Sivan

- 6:30 pm, Ritual Committee meeting
- 7 pm, Newsletter distribution

**31** Friday  
13 Sivan

- 8:08 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat service: Eileen Levy, Daniel Chesir and Ritual Committee

**Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.**

## JUNE FORWARD DEADLINES

### FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, MAY 6

To place a display ad, call Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@aol.com). To place a classified ad, call the office.

### FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, MAY 13

Please submit articles both on 3½-inch disk and hard copy on paper double spaced. Write "Attn. Gaily Forward" on top and mail to CSZ. No deadline extensions without advance permission from the editorial coordinator (821-3855) or kalis@out.org.internet.

## East Bay Services

- 5/17 Marc Weisman, 6122 Lawton St., Oakland (510/658-1684)
- 6/21 Judy Schwartz and Carolyn Pines, 2821 55th Ave., Oakland (510/532-9661)
- 7/19 Shelly Spiro and Gabriele Kassner, 2431 Burlington, Oakland (510/482-5967)



CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV  
220 DANVERS at CASELLI  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
FORWARDING & RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

PERMIT NO. 12628  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA





**Congregation Sha'ar Zahav**  
Shabbaton Weekend in Honor of Rabbi Yoel Kahn

*Renewing the Old and Sanctifying the New: Reclaiming, Renewing  
and Re-imagining Jewish Religious Life and Jewish Community*

**May 17-19, 1996 ~ 29 Iyar, 1 Sivan 5756**

**Kabbalat Shabbat, May 17, Sherith Israel, 8:15 pm**

California and Webster Streets

*Service Leaders:* Rabbi Leslie Bergson, Chaplain of the Claremont Colleges, and Jonathan Funk

*Derash:* Rabbi Yoel Kahn

*Music:* Jonathan Comisar, Johanna Ceapach Choinn, Jose-Luis Moscovich, Devra Felder Noily

A publication of selected sermons by Rabbi Kahn, edited by Ellen Lewin, will be distributed

**Shabbat Morning, May 18, Sherith Israel 10:00 am**

*Creative Shabbat Morning liturgy:* Rabbi Kahn

*Derash:* Shabbaton Scholar, Rabbi Lisa Edwards, Beit Chaim Chadashim, Los Angeles

*Parshat Ba-midbar: Further into the Wilderness*

Box-lunch \$6 (Please reserve one through the CSZ office)

**Shabbaton Study Sessions, Sherith Israel, 1 pm**

Teaching, learning and exploring the themes of this shabbaton in small groups

Rabbi Kahn: *Creating Liturgy: How we got what we got and How we make it our own*

Rabbi Nancy Flam: *Imagining God: A Cubist Perspective*

Rabbi Bergson: *Before the Beginning and After the End: Midrashic Images of the Beginnings  
and Ends of Time*

Phyllis Mintzer: *Finding and Affirming an Adult Jewish Identity: an Interactive Workshop*

Sara Felder Noily, Jon Comisar and Dan Bellm: *Jewish Influences on Personal Creativity*

**Closing Panel Discussion, 3 pm**

*The Queer Rabbinate: Looking Backward and Forward*

Yoel Kahn, Lisa Edwards, Leslie Bergson, Eric Weiss and Sanford Lowe

**Sunday Morning, May 19, Douglas Park 11:00 am, Clipper and Douglas**

Kadimah Picnic: Teacher-tutor Recognition Day and a thank you to Rabbi Kahn

**Sunday afternoon, May 19, Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers**

3 pm Congregational Meeting

5 pm *L'Chaim Yoel*, reception and toast

Part of the funding for this Shabbaton Weekend is underwritten by the generosity of the contributors to our  
**Ma'ayan Campaign**



